

use of these resources may depend on an ability to secrete small amounts of liquid from the tip of the proboscis, but its role in facilitating the ingestion of nutrients from drier mucus will require investigation.

Probing at mollusc mucus may be a relatively common moth behaviour, but overlooked on account of its nocturnal occurrence and the tendency of entomologists who use sugar to focus their attention on the bait. Placing wild or bred moths with slugs in cages under controlled experimental conditions – possibly using the Red Underwing *C. nupta* (L.) in place of the scarcer *C. sponsa* – could help confirm its prevalence and purpose, while a consideration of species' preferred known food sources could provide further insights. For example, a weakness for wine ropes – as displayed by late summer *Catocala* – might indicate a more general fruit-feeding habit, while species recorded at sugar would be expected to be better represented by honeydew or sap feeders than by those that typically frequent flowers.

I thank Dr Peter Mordan of the British Museum (Natural History) for assistance with a literature search. The work was carried out under New Forest Special Permissions – Insect Permit number 148/1999–2004. A copy of this report has been forwarded to Forest Enterprise. – LEONARD WINOKUR, Flat 3, Charles Court, 7 Darwin Road, Southampton, Hampshire SO15 5BS.

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***Chrysolina americana* (L.) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) reaches East Kent in 2004.**

Faversham residents were invited to bring along insects for identification to the public library as part of National Insect Week, 14–20 June 2004. In addition to the long list of stag beetle records from the town and surrounding villages of Boughton-under-Blean, Selling and North Street (best quote: one landed on my shoulder as I entered the parish church last week), I was presented with a jar containing two *Chrysolina americana* collected near the town centre on 20.vi.2004. This is the first record of this beetle in east Kent (VC15) known to the author. The beetle was reported as occurring in large numbers and visibly stripping a rosemary bush in the owner's garden. Andrew Salisbury has since informed me that there are records of *C. americana* from Bromley and West Wickham, West Kent in 2001 and post-National Insect Week from Shottenden, south of Faversham on 2nd July on the RHS database. = J.S. BADMIN, Coppice Place, Selling, Kent ME13 9RP.